

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 24, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 as presented.
Motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mike Sikoski, Woodland Road, asked that the following questions be addressed during the presentation on the Housing Inspection Programs:

- What types of violations occur?
- Where do most of the violations occur, apartments, single family or 2 family homes?
- Could these violations be discovered any other way?

Mayor Paterson stated that if these questions were not answered in the presentation this evening the Director of Building and Housing Inspection would make sure Mr. Sikoski got the answers.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported he, SGT Kennedy and members of the UConn police force have met with Aspen Management to discuss security plans for the spring. Aspen Management is planning to hire private security for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights this spring.

2. Community Water and Wastewater issues

The Town Manager also reported on the March 20th meeting of the UConn Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee. Ms. Koehn asked how much of the Central Plant usage is cogent. The Town Manager will inquire.

Ms. Blair left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation on Housing Inspection Program

Mike Nintean, Director of the Department of Building and Housing Inspection, accompanied by Derek Debus, Housing Code Official, updated the Council on the progress and results of both the Housing Inspection and Landlord Registry Programs.

Council members noted the record keeping of the programs is oriented to implementation of the code but the process makes it difficult for the Council to review the details of the program.

Ms. Koehn requested a list of the referrals made to the Zoning Department. Mr. Nesbitt asked for the cost of inspection per unit. The Director of Housing will supply that information.

4. Parks and Recreation, Co-Sponsorship Policy Revision

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective March 24, 2008, to adopt the Co-sponsorship Policy dated March 24, 2008, as endorsed by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Curt Vincente, Director of Recreation, summarized the proposed changes to the Co-Sponsor Policy. Councilors Schaefer and Haddad expressed some concerns with the wording of the changes. The Recreational Advisory Committee will be meeting this Wednesday and will review the suggestions in Mr. Schaefer's e-mail and those presented tonight.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to defer the motion to the next regular Town Council meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Fair Housing Policy and Proclamation

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, All American citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, State and Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, familial status, be given equal access to rental and homeowner opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The town of Mansfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all person to rent, purchase, and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis: and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That

the Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield, or his designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of illegal discriminatory housing practices in the Town of Mansfield.
 Move, effective March 24, 2008, to adopt the attached Fair Housing Statement.
 Move, effective March 24, 2008, to adopt the attached Compliance With the Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy.
 Move effective March 24, 2008, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation designating the month of April as "Fair Housing Month" in Mansfield.

Mr. Clouette moved to amend the motion to include the Fair Housing Policy in the Town Council's Policy Document. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

6. Town Manager Goals, March 2008

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective March 24, 2008, to endorse the Town Manager's Goals, dated March 2008.

- Motion passed unanimously.

- VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No comments

- VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Ms. Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations as appointments to the Communication Advisory Committee:

One Year Terms: Richard Pellegrine and Bill Powers

Two Year Terms: Patrick McGlamery and Leila Fecho

Three Year Terms: Aline Booth, Toni Moran and Joyce Crepeau

Ms. Duffy also moved to correct the enabling resolution to reflect the terms as proposed and to authorize the Mayor or her designee to call the first meeting of the Communication Advisory Committee to order and to preside until a chair is elected.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Duffy also noted that the Committee on Committees is planning to advertise the current committee vacancies by placing the information on the web and issuing a press release.

Mr. Clouette reported the Town Gown Committee discussed a new location for the compost facility, the expansion of playing fields at the former Training School and the Agronomy Road issue.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mayor Paterson attended the National League of Cities conference in Washington D.C. She reported that the mood of the participant was rather grim as a result of the bad economic situation.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attached

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to express the condolences of the Council regarding the death of Officer Matthew Morelli of Norwalk.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the septic problems at White Oak Condominium and the possible ultimate liability of the Town. Ms. Koehn asked staff to investigate whether the Town could insist the apartments use low flow appliances. Mr. Hultgren stated that since it is Town property the Town could set conditions.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Mr. Paulhus requested that at future budget meetings there be a defined opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting in addition to the one at the beginning. By consensus the Council agreed.

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. CCM re: The Impact of the President's FY 09 Federal Budget Proposal on Connecticut

8. Chronicle, "April Opening Set for Alternative School" - 03/06/08

9. Chronicle, "Attorneys Hired in Sewer Plant Fight" - 03/15/08

10. Chronicle, "Communication Board Seeks Members" - 03/08/08

11. Chronicle, "Editorial: We Offer These Threads, Needles" - 03/08/08

12. Chronicle, "Feds Clear School of Wrongdoing" - 03/08/08

13. Chronicle, "Forum Examines Teenage Drinking" - 03/07/08

14. Chronicle, "Goodbye Tears" - 03/12/08

15. Chronicle, "Grant Aids Mansfield School" - 03/19/08

16. Chronicle, "Growth Slow in Mansfield's Grand List" - 03/12/08

17. Chronicle, "It Takes More Than Paper Plates to Save Watershed" - 03/10/08

18. Chronicle, "IWA OKs Sewer Plant Application" - 03/15/08

19. Chronicle, "Little Leprechauns" - 03/18/08

20. Chronicle, "Mansfield Forum Deals With Local Water Issues" - 03/06/08

21. Chronicle, "Mansfield Seeks Nominees to Fill PZC Vacancy" - 03/10/08

22. Chronicle, "Report Outlines Plan for Sewers at Four Corners" - 03/12/08

23. Chronicle, "The Changing Face of Vo-Ag" - 03/15/08

24. Chronicle, "Three Charged After Carriage House Crimes" - 03/11/08

25. Chronicle, "UConn Police Net DUI Grant" - 03/13/08
 26. Daily Campus, "E.O. Smith Hosts Forum on Underage Drinking" - 03/07/08
 27. J. DeStefano, Jr. re: Invitation to Dedication Ceremony
 28. A. Epling re: Bake Sales
 29. M. Hart re: Downtown Mansfield Revitalization and Enhancement Project, Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) \$500,000
 30. M. Hart re: Reappointment to Mansfield Conservation Commission
 31. Hartford Courant, "CT Stats: Eight Counties, 169 Towns, 643 Villages" - 03/11/08
 32. Planning and Zoning Commission Referral, Estate of N. S. Green, Sr.
 33. Planning and Zoning Commission Referral, Quiet Meadow
 34. G. Padick re: Notice of 4/10 Scoping Meeting
 35. Windham Region Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events
 36. Windham Region Council of Governments re: SB 289 - An Act Increasing Funding for the Town Aid for Roads (TAR) Program
 37. Windham Region Council of Governments re: HB 5286 - An Act Increasing Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities
 38. Windham Region Council of Governments re: WINCOG Roundtable Roster
- Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to move into Executive Session.
Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Labor Relations and Personnel

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer.
Also included: Matt Hart, Town Manager and Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk